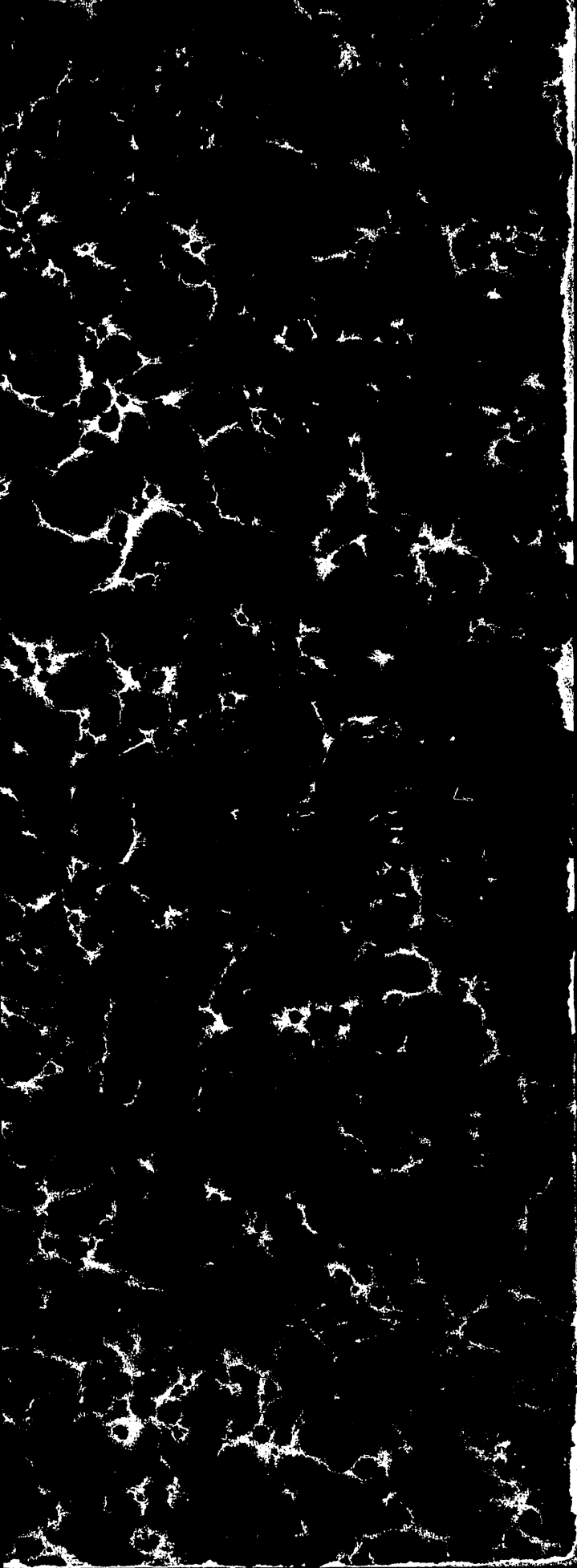


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Charleston S. C.
Report of missionary
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35
REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

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IN RELATION

TO THE MISSIONARY CAUSE,

ADOPTED AT A

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

IN

CHARLESTON, S. C.

January 19, 1843.

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REPORT ON MISSIONS.

THE COMMITTEE appointed to take into consideration the call made upon our Church, for discharging the debt incurred for Foreign and Domestic Missions, and to submit such measures as may be deemed advisable, have endeavoured to discharge the duty assigned them, and respectfully submit the following REPORT :—

The steady contributions of the Church to Missions, for several years antecedent to the last, had induced the Board to organize the Foreign and Domestic Missions upon a scale which would be met by a continuance of these contributions. It seemed to them a reasonable inference that the past year furnished a just estimate for that next ensuing; and accordingly as many Missionaries were sent into the field, as could be sustained by the income of the Society, estimated from these premises. From some cause, however, it has happened that these reasonable expectations have been disappointed, and the contributions of many of the Churches have fallen off to such a degree, that the current expenses have exceeded the contributions, and the two Departments need a sum of \$14,000 to meet engagements which have been actually incurred. The Missionaries, whose salaries this amount is required to pay, have been sent from their homes under the authority of the Church, and under the implied obligation, that those who are at home would fulfil their part of the work; and unless speedy relief be afforded, the bills which they have drawn upon the Committees for their current expenses must be dishonored, and these faithful servants of the Lord, will be subjected, with their families, to the suffering of want in the midst of strangers, and the cause in which they are engaged, exposed to discredit and embarrassment.

Although the Churches in South-Carolina are not accountable for this state of things, (their contributions not having been at all diminished) yet it becomes a question of grave importance, whether we shall stand by and see our brethren exposed to suffering and want, or whether we shall step forward to their rescue, and, by some greater exertion, strive to relieve the present need.

The recurrence of this state of things may be avoided, by the retrenchment which the Board of Missions are in the act of making, and by a suitable reduction of expenses; but the actual debt stands before us, exposing to extreme suffering those who have generously gone forward to preach the Gospel of salvation, upon no expectation of worldly gain; and whose sole demand upon us is that we furnish their pittance of actual daily need. The salaries of many Missionaries do not exceed the sum of \$200, and it may readily be imagined what must be the distress created in a family living upon such limited means, when even these are suddenly and unexpectedly withdrawn.

Your Committee do not believe that any member of our communion will be disposed to stay his hand in offering relief, upon the plea that we have already done our duty. They feel an assurance that if the laity of our Church were fully convinced of the advantages which are derived by the human family from the cause of Missions, so far from the present debt producing embarrassment, it would at once be promptly met, and they would not even permit a reduction in the Missionary establishment. Errors and objections are so rife in relation to this subject, and information so much needed, that your Committee see no better way of arriving at a conclusion as to the proper measures now to be taken, than by an effort to diffuse this information, and thereby make it apparent to all how the question of duty actually stands.

It is now just 32 years since a few youthful Students of Divinity, moved by the Spirit of God, in defiance of the scorn and ridicule of the world, proposed to the Christians of America, an association, for the purpose of extending to foreign lands, those Gospel blessings which they enjoyed. In the year 1811, amidst all the gloom of moral and political convulsion; when war was desolating one half the world, and our own country was becoming darkened by its impending clouds, the first Christian Mission sailed from the shores of America. It departed amidst the taunts of some, the ridicule of others, and the desponding doubts of even those who wished it success; and none but they whose trust was in no arm of flesh, had any expectation that it would result save in disappointment and failure.

The warm hearts which prompted and carried out that enterprise are now cold in the grave, but their glorified spirits are doubtless permitted to rejoice in the results which have ensued. In the brief period which has since elapsed, societies for promoting Missions, both at home and abroad, have been formed in rapid succession; and the cause has attained a strength and maturity unexampled, save in the first original spread of Christianity. As far as results can be collected from authentic documents, it will appear that the contributions of Protestant Christians of the United States for Foreign Missions alone, amounted in the year 1841, to the sum of \$525,000, of which our own Church Society, which had only been in existence ten years, contributed \$30,000. The amount contributed, during the same year, for the support of Domestic Missions, cannot be exactly ascertained, from the want of accurate details; but its extent may be conceived when it is known that the Home Department of the American Home Missionary Society employs 1103 Missionaries, and has in communion 75,000 persons. Our own Church too, contributes to Domestic Missions very nearly the same amount which she gives to Foreign; and it may safely be estimated, that the other Protestant Christians together, furnish at least an equal amount for Domestic Missions with that which is sent abroad. So that the united effort of Protestant Christians in the United States furnishes annually to this great cause, a sum exceeding one million of dollars. And all this, under the blessing of God, is the result of the labours of a single generation, in the short period of 32 years.

But this constitutes only a portion of the horizon which must be viewed.—The common ties of consanguinity, language and religion, bind in one brotherhood the whole English family—and, we, in this country, are so nearly connected with every movement in England, that upon matters of the nature we are now considering, we are necessarily one. In estimating, therefore, the claims and the effects of the Missionary cause, we must examine it from one common point of view. The efforts made in England in this behalf, preceded our own in point of time; but it was not until the latter part of the last century that their organization became efficient for general action. In fact, it was not till 1801 that the Church Missionary Society was organized—so that the period of active energy in England has a little exceeded 40 years.

In this short period the contributions of British Christians have advanced to such a degree, that in the year 1841 the amount actually contributed to Foreign Missions is within a fraction of two million of dollars. The whole body of Protestant Christians in England and America during the same year employed in the Foreign field alone, about 1200 ordained Ministers, assisted by about 4200 native Teachers; sustained fifty printing establishments, and have translated the Bible, or parts of it, into very nearly one hundred languages, which are more than one half of those spoken by the entire human family.

Such is the organization which is the fruit of only 40 years of continued effort. But the question is asked what good has been effected by this vast scheme? Your Committee would reply, that if nothing were accomplished but the organization, that would alone furnish a satisfactory result. In the history of all changes, it will be found that the preparatory measures themselves have ever proved the most difficult. In political changes, the leaders have considered the

end as well nigh accomplished when the organization and determination to act were completed. In our own revolution, was not the work more than half done when the thirteen States organised themselves in Congress and determined to be free? Concert and plan completely and efficiently organized, and moved on by men resolutely bent upon action, must ever produce results proportioned to the extent of organization, and particularly upon a field which (like the Missionary.) will presently be shewn, to be opened to us without contest.

But the Providence of God has condescended to bless us with other fruits to our labors far exceeding all reasonable calculation. From the most authentic documents within reach, it appears that the number of professed converts now in Communion with the Protestants of different denominations in Foreign lands amounts to upwards of 170,000; and that the adults and children belonging to their schools are nearly 200,000. At various points the savage Continent of Africa is occupied by advancing columns of Missionaries, who are gradually changing the character and habits of the natives. The Hottentot has been taught to resume the condition of man. The Negro of the slave coast has been taught to consider the white man as a messenger of peace instead of death. The New Zealander has abandoned his cannibal appetites. The South Sea Islands instead of being the hiding place of savages, have many of them become ports of safe harboring for commerce—and the new Continent of Australia, which must one day teem with living millions, is among the established outposts of the Redeemer's kingdom. In India the changes effected within the last ten years are among the most striking events of the times. The power of the Brahmins over the minds of the Hindoos is beginning to crumble, and the priests themselves have begun to find their occupation gainless. Many of the Hindoo temples are going to ruin, and it is computed by intelligent observers that where one new Temple is built, 60 are allowed to go to ruin. Nodda and Santapore, the two most celebrated Colleges where the Shastres are studied, and which formerly had from 3,000 to 4,000 students, have now only 300 or 400. In fact it is stated in the evidence taken before a Committee of the British House of Commons in relation to the effect of Missions upon the natives, "that success to a certain extent has invariably attended every Missionary exertion among the Heathen."

But if we turn our eyes to the Church at home, we will have no reason to complain of the results of the Missionary enterprise. Before this cause was embraced by the Church, what was its condition? Apathy and deadness may be said to have been its characteristics. The Sceptic and the Infidel pointed to the Christian as one who did not even believe in his own religion—for while he preached the universal benevolence of the Gospel, his active moments all ended in himself. The Church had indeed "only a name to live." But the Missionary cause turned it back to do the first works of a truly Christian Church. The very element that was needed to enliven its piety was now infused, and every Christian began to find that there was something which could be done for his Lord and Master. The Church came forth out of itself, and suddenly every portion thereof became quickened with a spirit of emulation. Instead of contending with each other about points of discipline and differences of opinion, each denomination of Christians urged forward, and when their Missionaries met in far distant climes preaching to the lost millions the glad tidings of salvation; they could not but feel that it was the same Jesus whom they all acknowledged—the same Christ whose cause they sought to advance; and Christian sympathy and common suffering drew them together, and obscured even the differences which existed at home.

It was soon perceived that the cause of Religion, abroad and at home, was one; and that in proportion as the Church advanced in piety and godliness, its efforts were increased in the Missionary service, at home and abroad. The same individual who was constrained by the love of Christ to give to the destitute Pagan, found his sympathies ready to help his suffering brother at home; and observation will demonstrate the fact, that the progress of the Mis-

sionary cause in a Church, is a sure indication of the state of Christian zeal and piety in that Church. Nay more, it is recorded as an undoubted fact that the very discussion of the means of promoting the Missionary cause, has occasioned harmony and Christian charity to revive their influence over a divided church. And a moment's consideration would show this to be the necessary result. For God, in his infinite wisdom and goodness, has so adapted his grace to our nature, that when we become more assimilated to himself, by the influence of his Spirit, that moment are our hearts ready to expand in love to all our fellow creatures. It is through His unbounded goodness alone that we are permitted to contribute to this great cause. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," and he needs no aid from us to call into His Church the whole Gentile world. But in mercy and loving kindness to ourselves, He permits us to be the instruments of this great work, that opportunities may be afforded us of expanding our love and exhibiting our devotion to Him, by acts which at the same time benefit and gratify ourselves.

But there is still another view of the subject, which to your Committee seems constraining in its demands upon our exertions. At the present period the whole human family may be classed under three great Religious Divisions. The Mahometan, the Brahminical and the Christian. The Moslem embraces about 120 millions of mankind; the worshippers of Brahma are about 400 millions, and Christendom contains about 200 millions. The remainder, consisting of about 100 millions are savages, and are so scattered upon the surface of the globe, as to exert no material influence upon the others, while they are capable themselves of being directly acted upon by them.

There was a time when the followers of Mahomet sought to extend their religion by the sword; but that time is past. "Mahometanism and Brahminism are both smitten to death." They are well compared by an eloquent writer to a dead tree, ready to fall to pieces; and the only resistance they offer, is that of inertness and decay. They make no advances either upon each other or among barbarians. Christianity, on the other hand, is active and vigorous. Her very element is progress, and her every votary must be at heart a zealous Missionary. Wherever she advances the true soldier of the Cross is in the foreground, offering freely and without price, the blessings which he enjoys. In every quarter of the world Colonies from Christian lands are at work, and it is obvious therefore that as Brahminism and Mahometanism stay at home, the 100 millions of savages are entirely within the range of Christian influence. In this direction then, the harvest is entirely given to us; and shall we not then "pray that the Lord of the harvest send forth more laborers into this harvest?" And can we pray that they be sent, when we will not exert ourselves to keep in the field even those who already are on the spot, with the sickle in their hands?

Let us ponder, too, the situation of deep responsibility in which our Church and all its members are placed. Every one who is well informed as to the moral condition of the East, is aware that India is the great centre from which religious opinions emanate, and that the Chinese symbols furnish the means of communication with more than one half of the Eastern world. Whoever then has the control of these elements, has a fearful power entrusted to his keeping, and a fearful responsibility for its exercise. It is less than a century since France and Portugal had sway over a large portion of the East; and when Hyder Ally and the French were disputing, inch by inch, with the English, the possession of the East, it would have been presumption to conjecture that England was to remain sole mistress of India; yet God has delivered this immense region entirely to her keeping. So too, by a most unexpected train of events, the heart of China is opened to the advance of the English races, just at the very time when our desponding fears at home were inducing us to think the Chinese Mission a useless waste of our resources. On the other side too, of the Asiatic continent, the British race have acquired the ascendancy in almost every region; while at all the assailable points of the African conti-

ment, the same power is, in connection with ourselves, placed in possession of the whole field. The continent of Australia, together with the Sandwich and South Sea Islands, are all subjected to the control of the same races, and in every quarter of the globe their foot seems to be planted wherever it is once set down.

To us, who entertain no doubt of the special Providence of God, can all these facts be viewed in any other light than as indications that we are the called and special agents of our Lord, for the furtherance of this great work? And shall we decline the Mission of being the honored servants of the King of Kings? So far, in the furtherance of this mighty enterprise, we are compelled to acknowledge the fulfilment, on His part, of all His promises. He has indeed, been with us, and until now, we have literally lacked nothing, but zeal, in advancing forward. Every effort put forth by the Church—every new field taken in—every new Mission established, has been met by new contributions from the Church, keeping pace with our advance. The great cry has been for laborers—behold they have come—they have gone forth to the work, and now as it were to try our faith, the question is put to us, shall they be recalled—shall the work cease for want of effort on our part to continue it?

Turn our eyes to our own Domestic relations. The valley of the Mississippi which occupies the largest portion of these Missions, may be estimated at 1500 miles in its length. Along this whole line, a tide of population is advancing, which is computed to progress at the rate of 17 miles per annum. It is, therefore, clear that at no very distant period, this immense region must be filled with a race of men, speaking our own language, and nearly as numerous as the population of Europe. This race is to govern and give the law to our own children. Is it not apparent then, that every consideration of duty and policy unites in persuading us to carry to them the Gospel—to preach to them Christ crucified, and to pray that God may bless every means that can be employed for making them true disciples of the Redeemer? Can we doubt that in the position which we occupy, we should strain every nerve to maintain the ground which Religion has gained, and as a means to that end, to contribute all that we can spare, to the Missions which are established among them.

If we may be permitted to raise the veil of the future, and view the period when this tide of human beings shall have filled this immense region, and reached the shores of the Pacific, may we not connect that result with the events which have now brought China within the range of Christian influences. If we are true to the cause of Christ and use the means within our reach, we cannot fail to plant the Cross upon either shore of the Pacific, and thus to encircle the globe with one continued belt of Christian Missions. The masses of our fellow-Christians, speaking the same language and united in the same communion, will fill up the regions beyond the Rocky Mountains, and from the shores of the great Ocean will find their way across to their Brethren of the same race to whom the heart of China is already opened. Here the advancing current will receive new impulse, and may be met by the tide which is already on its way from Syria and from Persia, until meeting together in Central Asia, the earth shall be encircled with its fulness as the waters cover the sea. Then indeed, will the sun never set upon the Redeemer's Kingdom, and as his rays in their daily course shall in turn illumine each hill and valley, each nation and people will take up the song, and one continued and never dying anthem from thousands and tens of thousands will resound "the praise of him who hath redeemed them with his blood from every nation, and people, and tongue, and clime."

Surely no disciple of Jesus will ask where lies the path of duty in the call now made upon the Church. It is so obviously clear, that the only question is as to the best means of discharging it. And in determining this question, can we do better than recur to the example of those who first planted the Church of Christ? The teaching of the Apostles in the primitive ages was, that Christians should contribute regularly to the objects of religion as God had prospered them.

This teaching seems to your Committee to be the dictate of the soundest wisdom, and to be as applicable to the present Missionary efforts of the Church as at the first. No certain results can be predicated upon unusual and excited action; and large contributions produced by unusual effort are apt to resemble spasmodic exertion in the exhaustion which usually follows. Small contributions, steadily made, upon a systematic plan, are more to be relied on, and in the end produce much greater results. They possess, too, the infinite advantage of being cheerfully given, and enlist the sympathies and co-operation of the giver—thus blessing both him that gives and him that receives.

In this view of the matter, your Committee have estimated what would be the probable amount of contribution from the Churches in this city which would be required to meet the emergency, without impairing their ability to contribute to the current expenses of the year. In making the estimate they have been guided by the evidences of the willingness and ability of our brethren, rather than by calculations based upon proportionate duty. For experience unfortunately proves that an appeal like the present can be addressed successfully only to the willing. They therefore assume that \$1400 should be raised in this city. In the different Churches there are supposed to be about 700 families able to contribute; so that a contribution of only Two Dollars from each of these would raise the amount. This small sum from each would require but little self-denial of any kind; but surely none of us could possibly regret that we had denied ourselves something in behalf of such a cause. Those whom God has prospered, and whose hearts are grateful for his goodness, will certainly give much more than the sum above named. It is not intended by the Committee to limit the benevolent feelings of any. But it is earnestly recommended that every family in the Church come forward on this occasion, and evince their desire and determination to take part in this great and advancing work.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the cause of Missions commends itself to the zealous and prayerful co-operation of every Christian, as well by the advancement of piety which it effects at home, as by the inestimable blessings which it conveys to the destitute millions abroad.

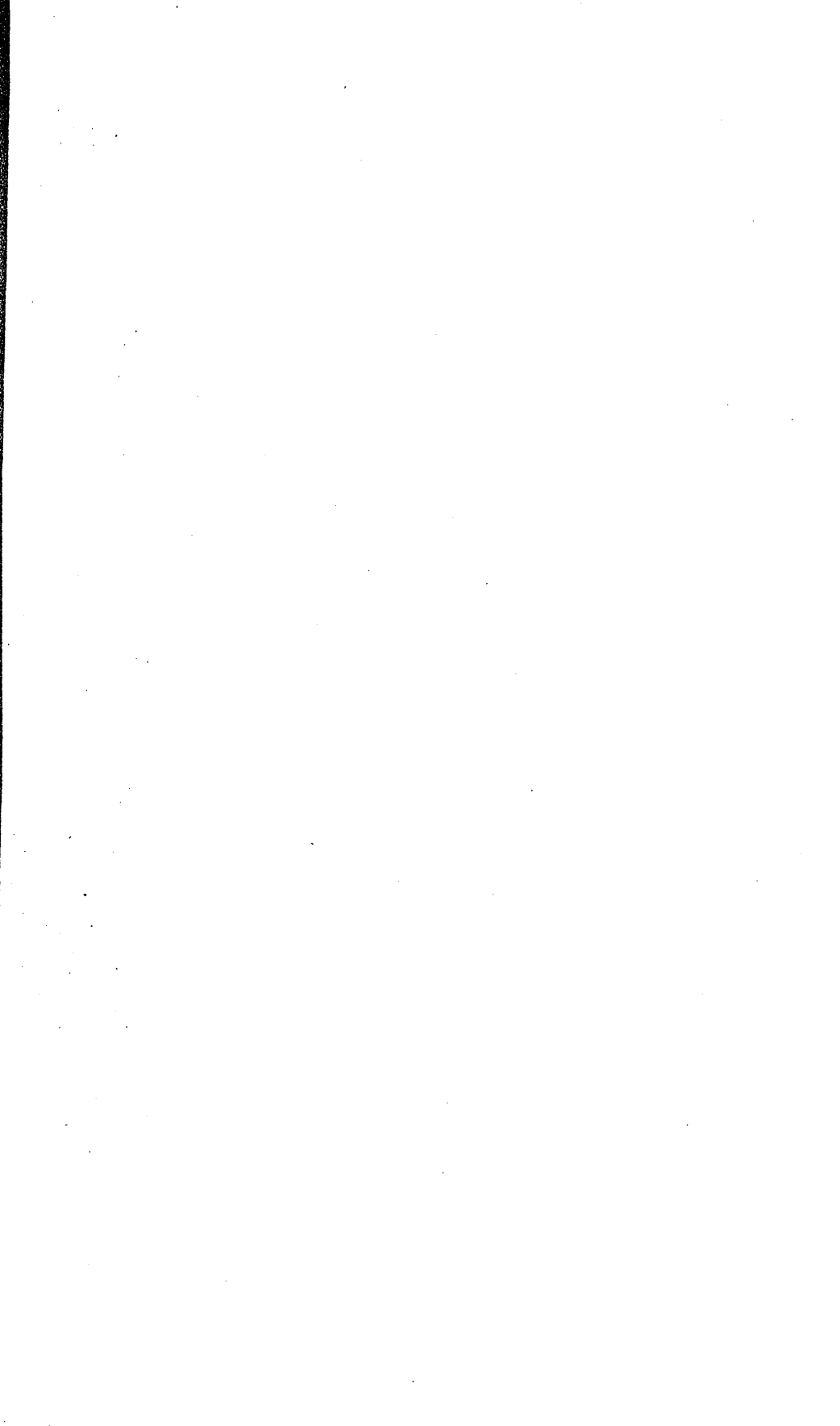
2. *Resolved*, That the existing condition of the Foreign and Domestic Missions of our Church, renders it highly important, that the Churches generally, of our Communion, should at once raise funds to meet the debt due by our General Missionary Boards.

3. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to our Churches in this City, to raise among them, the sum of Fourteen Hundred Dollars, to be applied rateably to the extinguishment of the above debt; and that the last Sunday in the present month be designated in the several Churches, as the day upon which the attention of the Congregations shall be specially turned to the subject, in such manner as the Rector of each Church may deem expedient; and that Collections be taken up in each on that day.

4. *Resolved*, That as the sum of Two Dollars from each family would make up the sum proposed to be raised, it be recommended that every Family in our Church, contribute according to their ability, such amount, more or less, as will at least make up this average; the rich giving as much more, as it has pleased God to prosper them; and the poor remembering, that the hearty offering of a single mite received the blessing of our Lord and Master.

5. *Resolved*, That every member of our Church is earnestly and affectionately invited to consider his personal duty to support the cause of Missions, and by regular periodical contributions according to his ability, to enable the Church steadily to maintain a system for its continuance and advancement. All which is respectfully submitted,

C. G. MEMMINGER, *Chairman*.



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